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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 15197 300407Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 DODE-00 COME-00 INT-05
GSA-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 L-03 /049 W
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R 300335Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5254
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: EMIN, ETRD, ITC
SUBJ: TIN-RTG REPRESENTATION ON US TIN DISPOSAL POLICY

REF BANGKOK 14876 (NOTAL)

DEPT PASS USGS AND BUREAU OF MINES

1. AT REQUEST OF RTG MIN OF FORNAFFAIRS, REGIONAL RE-
SOURCES ATTACHE CALLED ON KAMTORN CHITKONGTHAI, CHIEF OF
MFA ECONIMIC AND COMMERCIAL DIV ON 26 MAY 78 TO DISCUSS US
TIN DISPOSAL POLICY. KAMTORN EXPRESSED CONCERN OF RTG OVER
PLANS OF USG TO SELL TIN FROM THE GENERAL SERVICES
ADM STOCKPILE AND ASKED FOR LATEST INFO ON US TIN DISPOSAL
POLICY. HE ADDED THAT RTG REPRESENTATION WAS PART OF JOINT
EFFORT AGREED UPON BY TIN PRODUCING COUNTRIES AT THE APRIL
MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL IN LONDON AND IMPLIED
RTG INTENDED REPRESENTATION TO BE "LOW KEY".

2. RESOURCES ATTACHE REPLIED THAT VARIOUS VERSIONS OF DISPOSAL
LEGISLATION ARE BEING CONSIDERED SO NEW US TIN DISPOSAL POLICY
NOT YET DETERMINED. HE SAID USG WOULD NOT WISH TO DISRUPT
WORLD TIN MARKTE AND WOULD CONSULT WITH TIN PRODUCING COUNTRIES
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 15197 300407Z

BEFORE COMMENCING DISPOSAL PROGRAM. HE NOTED THAT ADMINISTRA-
TION'S DECISION TO SEEK CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION FOR TIN
DISPOSAL COMES AT TIME WHEN WORLD TIN PRICES ARE ALREADY
HIGH AND SHORTFALL IN TIN PRODUCTION, AS CURRENTLY PROJECTED,
COULD DRIVE PRICES EVEN HIGHER. HE RECOGNIZED THAT RTG
HAS TAKEN MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE TIN PRODUCTION BUT THAT MANY
TIN PRODUCING COUNTRIES HAVE TAX STRUCTURES WHICH IN FACT

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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DISCOURAGE NEW INVESTMENT IN TIN MINING. HE ADDIED THAT US DEL WILL VISIT BANGKOK JUNE 12-16 TO ATTEND MEETING OF ITC ECONOMIC AND PRICE REVIEW PANEL AND COULD PROBABLY CONDUCT BILATERAL DISCUSSION WITH RTG ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON US TIN POLICY SHOULD RTG SO DESIRE.

3. IN COURSE OF OTHERWISE PRO-FORMA DISCUSSION, KAMTORN ASKED CURIOUS QUESTION WHETHER USG LIKELY TO SELL TIN FROM GSA STOCKPILE TO JAPAN TO HELP ESTABLISH JAPANESE TIN STOCK-PILE AND REDUCE US TRADE DEFICIT WITH JAPAN. RESROUCES ATTACHE REPLIED THAT HE HAD SEEN NOTHING TO THAT EFFECT AND ASKED WHETHER KAMTORN HAS ANY INFO THAT JAPAN INTENDED TO ESTAB-LISH TIN STOCKPILE. KAMTORN SAID HE HAD NO SUCH INFO BUT ASKED QUESTION ONLY BECAUSE JAPAN IS SUCH A LARGE CON-SUMER OF TIN.

4. IN CLOSIG KAMTORN SAID HE WOULD GIVE EMB AIDE-MEMOIRE SUMMARIZING RTG POSITION ON GSA TIN DISPOSAL AFTER HE HAS HAD TIME TO REREAD BRIEFING NOTES ON PRODUCTING COUNTRIES' JONT REPRESENTATION TO USG.
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20 Mar 2014
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